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Progress Report at the Reilly Tar & Chemical Site, St. Louis Park, MN -
RCRA Assistance Agreement, CX809642-01-3

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THRU: Richard E. Bartelt, Chief
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This memo transmits a summary of the progress at the Reilly Tar & Chemical site located in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Also, attached are the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) report of expenditures, to date, and the EPA Fact Sheet on Reilly Tar which was previously submitted to your office in January 1982. These two items combined with the MPCA-EPA Cooperative Agreement (CA) submitted to your office on August 17, 1982 constitute a complete documentation of the history of the actions, taken at the site by governmental agencies, that are pertinent to a comprehensive study and cleanup of the contamination.

The cost figures and budget period authorized by the \$400,000 RCRA Cooperative Agreement authorized in 1981, have been entered into the Project Tracking System. The \$180,000 budgeted for Task I and Task II has been spent. Task III, (\$220,000) water treatability study is about 60% complete. The investigation of Well 23 (Task I) located on the site showed that a substantial amount of coal tar had entered previously into the well casing and served as a source of pollution for various aquifers, most notably, the Prairie du Chien water aquifer which is the source of potable water from St. Louis Park.

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Twenty seven drums, each with a capacity of 55 gallons, were filled with concentrated coal tar removed from the well. A graphic showing the progression of work, the amount of coal tar removed per interval of depth and the status of the project will be presented by the contractor and eventually submitted to your office. I have attached a rough draft of the graphic of W-23 work completed at the well.

Although substantial progress has been made in removing the existing coal tar contamination in Well W23, it is critical to continue work to remove the little remaining contamination in the well since this well is probably the primary source of contamination of the major drinking water aquifer in the area. If this is the case, we may be able to proceed with a water treatment system for this aquifer as part of a segmented approach to the gradient control well operable unit proposed in the CERCLA CA.

The well survey (Task 2) as budgeted under the RCRA agreement has been completed and will continue to a minor extent under the new CERCLA Cooperative Agreement. The purpose of the survey is to find any more multi-aquifer wells that may be transporting contaminants from elevated aquifers to the deeper drinking water aquifer.

The water treatability study (Task III) which is now assigned to the operable unit, Gradient Control Well System, has secured much data relative to the background levels of contamination of the various aquifers. Furthermore, the bench scale testing shows that the contaminated drinking water aquifer can be treated to a drinking water quality. The cost-effectiveness of various degrees of treatment will also be analyzed and preliminary results should be available by June 1983. If we can demonstrate that the water treatment project, as part of the gradient control well program operable unit, is not affected by the remedial action proposed for the source material in the near future, then we can proceed this fiscal year with a water treatment project. The feasibility study of the source material which includes the soils and uppermost aquifer is included for funding in the CERCLA Cooperative Agreement and the timeline for that study is expected to be approximately one year.

To accelerate that timeline, in order to determine the practicability of a segmented approach to the remedial action at the site, the State may have their contractor perform a preliminary analysis of the total problem and determine the relationship between the source material and the much deeper drinking water aquifer. As stated previously, if pollution of the drinking water aquifer is due solely to direct contamination from Well W23 and any other multi-aquifer wells, then closure of these wells will allow us to proceed with a water treatment project before the source feasibility study is finished. Regardless of the timing of cleanup at the site, a potable water treatment scheme will offer three noteworthy benefits: 1) the drinking water aquifer will be pumped clean, 2) the citizens will have a full water supply restored to them and, thus 3) the city will assure proper operation and maintenance of the system for its duration.

bcc: Leininger, 5C
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